

Joyce H. Upham, 80

Joyce E. (Harris) Upham, 80, died on Thursday, January 28, 2016 in her home in Aiken, SC of complications following breast cancer.

Born August 28, 1935, Johnstown, PA, she was a daughter of the late William H. and Frieda M. (Miller) Harris.

Joyce was a graduate of Northwestern High School (Maryland). She was a Presidential scholarship recipient at Towson University (Baltimore, MD) where she graduated with a BS in education. She then taught at several public schools in Hyattsville, MD area. A Southern Regional Education Board scholarship followed to study at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill where she graduated with an MS in library science.

She was awarded an Outstanding Elementary Science Teacher award from the National Science Foundation, taught US military dependents in Okinawa, Japan and was a librarian at schools in Durham and Orange counties in North Carolina. In Fairbanks, AK, she was the children's librarian in the North Star Borough Library, a docent at the University of Alaska Museum of the North and she taught specialized reading courses in the local public schools and at Tanana Valley Community College. In Massachusetts, Joyce was director of the Carver Public Library, organizing the construction of a new state-of-the-art library facility.

She lived with her family in West Duxbury from the mid 1980's to 1999 and both her children are graduates of Duxbury High School. During summer months, she participated in a hands-on renovation of a family cottage on Gurnet Point. And as a hobby, she caned chairs and taught others how to cane chairs, a skill she first learned while living in Chapel Hill.

While in Duxbury, she was a member of the High Street United Methodist Church and after moving to South Carolina in 1999 was a member of St. John's United Methodist Church in Aiken, SC. She was a 50-year member of the American Association of University Women (AAUW), an organization where she served as president of several branches. Joyce was listed in Who's Who of American Women.

She is survived by her husband of 52 years, Donald B. Upham; her children, Harris W. Upham (Tara) and Margaret W. Upham (Mark Mazurkiewicz) both of Reading, PA; sisters Sara Jane Smith (Samuel) and Arlene M. Vincent (Edward), both of North Augusta, SC and Marcia L. Harris of Aiken, SC.

A memorial service was held Saturday, January 30, 2016 at St. John's UMC chapel in Aiken, SC. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Aiken County Public Library, 314 Chesterfield St. SW, Aiken, SC, 29801.